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The synonymy of the genus stands thus :

Genus **Habia*** REICHB.

1850.—*Habia* REICHENBACH, Avium Syst. Natur. pl. lxxviii ("June 1, 1850"); (type *G. melanocephala* Sw.).

1851.—*Hedymeles* CABANIS, Mus. Hein. I, p. 152 ("June, 1851"); (type *L. ludoviciana* L.; nec *Hedymela* SUNDEV., 1846).

1880.—*Zamelodia* COUES, Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club, V, p. 98 ("April 1880"); (same type).

The species, according to Ridgway's 'Nomenclature,' will stand as :

244 **Habia ludoviciana** (LINN.) ROSE-BREADED GROSBEAK.

245. **Habia melanocephala** (SWAINS). BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK.

XVI.—ON THE OLDEST AVAILABLE NAME OF
WILSON'S PHALAROPE.

The genus *Steganopus* of Vieillot is usually quoted as having been established by that author in 1823 (Enc. Méth., p. 1106). It is, however, to be found as early as 1819 in the 'Nouveau Dictionnaire d'Histoire Naturelle,' vol. XXXII, where it is properly characterized on p. 136.

An inspection of the same article shows also that the name *Steganopus tricolor* is there applied to Wilson's Phalarope for the first time, consequently four years earlier than Sabine described the same bird as *Phalaropus wilsoni*, as the latter name dates only from the year 1823.

The species, therefore, should stand as

Lobipes tricolor (VIEILL.). WILSON'S PHALAROPE.

A NOTE ON THE GENUS *PROGNE*.

BY R. BOWDLER SHARPE, FOR. MEMB. A. O. U.

HAVING received on loan from the authorities of the U. S. National Museum the types of some of the Purple Martins,

* Le nom *Habia* est celui qu'une quatre espèces de cette division [*Saltator*] portent au Paraguay, et que M. de Azara leur a imposé particulièrement.' (Vieill., N. Dict. d'Hist. Nat., XIV, p. 102).—*Abia*, as emended by Agassiz, would seem to be derived from ἀβιος, in the meaning of "poor, without food," but has no connection with the original *habia*.

which formed part of the studies of Professor Baird in his celebrated 'Review,' I have the pleasure to forward to 'The Auk' my first contribution (out of many, let us hope) to that Journal, on the subject of these interesting specimens.

I do not propose to treat of *P. dominicensis*, *P. chalybea*, or *P. tapera*, which are easily distinguished, but of the unicolorous blue species, *P. purpurea* (*P. subis*, auct. Amer.), *P. furcata*, and *P. concolor*. I have found, as I believe, a new and easy way of distinguishing these whole-colored species, one which, at least, I have not seen mentioned in any work with which I am acquainted, and this is, by the number and position of the silky-white tufts of feathers on the lower back and flanks. Of these tufts, *P. purpurea* has *two*, one on the side of the lower back, and a second one on the flanks. *P. furcata* has only a *single* white tuft on the lower back, and *P. concolor* has *none at all*.

The geographical distribution of these three species is also interesting, for we find that the Brazilian Purple Martin is true *P. purpurea*, and the adult male of Baird's *Progne elegans* is only *P. purpurea* shot in its winter quarters, which, be it noted, it shares with two other North American Swallows, *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota* and *Hirundo erythrogastra*. The female and young birds of *P. elegans* are of the same species as *P. furcata*, as we have satisfied ourselves by an examination of a large series in the British Museum, and in the collections of Dr. Sclater and Messrs. Salvin and Godman. Female birds from Mendoza are identical with the types of *P. elegans* from Paraguay, and these two localities doubtless mark the horizontal range of *P. furcata*, which De Philippi does not allow to be a Chilian species.

I propose to ornithologists to adopt the name of *P. furcata*, Baird, for the southern Purple Martins, as the *Progne elegans* of the same author is now seen to be founded on examples of two different species. In conclusion I wish to acknowledge the obligation which I owe to Professor Baird and my friends at the U. S. National Museum for the privilege of examining these interesting types, although, thanks to the excellence of Professor Baird's descriptions, I had come to the conclusion here recorded without even seeing the specimens, the loan of which came upon me as a most agreeable surprise.